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Application No. 10/823,291

Docket No.: 08211/0200655-US0 (P05800)

Amendment dated January 4, 2006

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After Final Office Action of September 14, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A circuit for reducing propagation delay, comprising:

a logic circuit including a p-type transistor and an n-type transistor, wherein a drain of the p-type transistor is coupled to a drain of the n-type transistor, and wherein the logic circuit is coupled between a low power supply and a high power supply; and

a voltage offset circuit that is arranged to provide a first voltage to a gate of the p-type transistor, and further arranged to provide a second voltage to a gate of the n-type transistor such that the second voltage is positively offset relative to the first voltage, wherein the positive offset is less than the difference between the high power supply and the low power supply; and

a current source that is operable to provide a first current, wherein the voltage offset circuit includes a resistor, and wherein the voltage offset circuit is operable to provide the first and second voltages such that the logic circuit performs as if the difference between the high power supply and the low power supply was approximately $VDD + I1 * R1$, where $I1$ represents the first current, VDD represents a voltage of the high power supply, and where $R1$ represents the resistance of the resistor.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A timer circuit for reducing propagation delay for a relatively small supply voltage, comprising:

a current mirror having at least an input and an output, wherein the current mirror is arranged to receive a reference current at an input of the current mirror, and to provide a current at the output of the current mirror based on the reference current;

a capacitor circuit that is operable to provide a first voltage in response to the current;

a voltage offset circuit that is coupled between the current source circuit and the capacitor circuit, wherein the voltage offset circuit is operable to provide a second voltage in response to the

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first voltage and the current such that the second voltage is positively offset relative to the first voltage; and

an inverter circuit that includes a p-type transistor and an n-type transistor, wherein a drain of the p-type transistor is coupled to a drain of the n-type transistor, a gate of the p-type transistor is operable to receive the first voltage, and a gate of the n-type transistor is operable to receive the second voltage.

24. (Currently amended) A timer circuit for reducing propagation delay for a relatively small supply voltage, comprising:

a current source circuit having at least an output that is coupled to a first node, wherein the current source circuit is operable to provide a current;

a capacitor circuit that is coupled between a second node and a third node, wherein the second node is coupled to ground, and wherein the capacitor circuit is operable to provide a first voltage at the third node;

a voltage offset circuit that is coupled between the first node and the third node, wherein the voltage offset circuit is operable to provide a second voltage in response to the first voltage and the current such that the second voltage is positively offset relative to the first voltage; and

an inverter circuit that includes:

a p-type transistor having at least a gate, a drain, and a source, wherein the gate of the p-type transistor is coupled to the third node, the drain of the p-type transistor is coupled to a fourth node, and the source of the p-type transistor is coupled to a fifth node; the fifth node is a power supply node; and wherein, regardless of the logic level at the gate of the p-type transistor, the capacitor circuit is electrically coupled between the gate of the p-type transistor and the second node; and

an n-type transistor having at least a gate, a drain, and a source, wherein the gate of the n-type transistor is coupled to the first node, the drain of the n-type transistor is coupled to the fourth node, and the source of the n-type transistor is coupled to the second node.

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